

# Halton Hills Outlook

Outlook is published each Friday by The Halton Hills Herald, home newspaper of Halton Hills, a division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited, at 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 3Z6, Second Class Mail - Registered Number 0943.

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## Their Outlook

### Turner's appointments cause little criticism

In these dog days of summer, and especially in the wake of the July 20 byelections, Liberal Leader John Turner just can't seem to do anything without being criticized. If a little-known Liberal were to fall off a cliff in Labrador, somehow, it would be attributed to Mr. Turner's leadership, or lack of it.

These are, unquestionably, difficult days for the Liberals, whose popularity has been tumbling in the opinion polls for months, and who failed to win any of the three byelections. The internal bickering over such key issues as the Meech Lake constitutional accord goes on relentlessly - even forcing Party President Michel Roy to plea, on behalf of his troubled leader, for caucus unity.

Tories were taunting the decimated Liberals of Lester Pearson, there has probably never been a period when the party seemed so dispirited.

It's little-wonder there were so many stunned expressions when the new campaign co-chairman announced that one of his priorities was to "get some fun back into the party."

On the face of it, this seems like a rather tall order. But if anyone can do it, Senator Graham can. When it comes to spreading goodwill, and having fun in the process, the former broadcaster has few equals in politics. He's certainly in a different league than his predecessor, Senator Michael Kirby. And he's even further removed from an earlier occupant of that office, Senator Keith Davey.



### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod

But, just for the record, Mr. Turner did one thing recently for which he is unlikely to hear one whisper of protest or criticism. And that's when he announced that Senator Alasdair Graham would run the next Liberal election campaign in English Canada. His Quebec counterpart will be Senator Pietro Rizzuto, about whom I know little, except that he speaks French, English and Italian and is a Liberal.

But no one can work around Parliament Hill for any length of time without knowing something about Senator Al, the hearty, red-faced Nova Scotian who just might be the most likeable fellow in town. If he has an enemy in the Liberal party, or in the country for that matter, it's one of Ottawa's best-kept secrets.

And talk about being upbeat! The guy's an incurable optimist.

#### NEEDED NOW

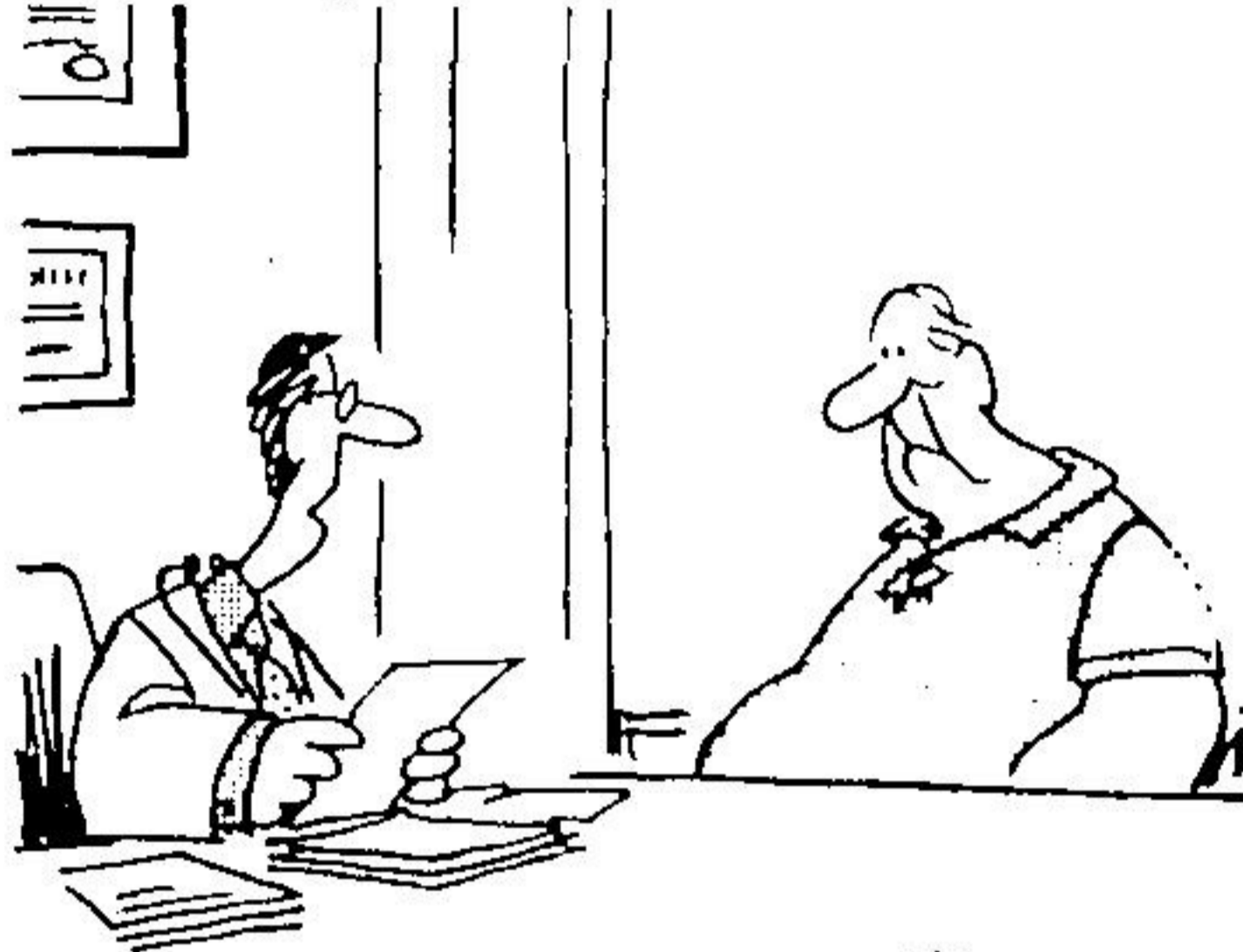
If there was ever a time the Liberal party needed an injection of optimism, it's right now. With the possible exception of a few months in 1958, when John Diefenbaker's

While elected as his "own man," Senator Graham earned enormous respect from Mr. Trudeau - although it's difficult to imagine two more differing personalities. Mr. Trudeau, rigid and disciplined, could never understand how the party president could sit up all night, chewing the fat with convention delegates, and then function at full speed the next day.

"It's all in the mind," the senator once remarked.

When Mr. Turner decided to enter the leadership race in 1984 to replace Mr. Trudeau, Senator Graham was a key member of his campaign, concentrating his energies in Atlantic Canada. In the subsequent election campaign, there were many who felt Senator Graham should have played a more prominent role, and Mr. Turner was heavily criticized for going back to the "old guard" - Senator Davey - halfway through the disastrous campaign.

### Berry's World



Jim Berry

"Hmmm! Flabby and low morale - the General Motors disease."

### BOOK REVIEW

By ROBERT NIELSEN

Displaying imagination and boldness rarely equalled by much larger and richer newspapers, the Kingston Whig-Standard pulled off a journalistic coup last year.

Out of Afghanistan (Eden Press, 257 pages, \$16.95) is David Prosser's inside story of the venture, which resulted in five Soviet Red Army defectors being smuggled out of that ravaged country and admitted to Canada as immigrants.

Prosser admits he was an unlikely choice for the risky and delicate assignment handed to him by editor Neil Reynolds: Go to Afghanistan, find six Soviet defectors whom the Canadian government failed to rescue, and get their stories. As the Whig-Standard's entertainment editor, Prosser was (and on the evidence of this book, still is) a political ignoramus; he had never reported a foreign news story. But, also on the evidence of this book and the syndicated stories that followed his trip, he was a good choice. He is a fine descriptive writer and an adequate interviewer attuned to what the trade calls "human interest." Editor Reynolds found just the right person to make up for his deficiencies: Ludmilla Thorne of Freedom House in New York, a linguist, a veteran of three previous rescue missions in Afghanistan, and a fervent champion of Soviet refugees. As guide and interpreter for Prosser and two photographers, she supplied the savvy and contacts they needed to get the job done.

#### DEMORALIZED

The five defectors that Prosser reached were prisoners of the mujahideen, the Afghan resistance fighters. He sums up as follows their common experiences: "Drafted into the Red Army at 18 or 20, they arrive in Afghanistan straight from basic training camps in the U.S.S.R. Their task, they are told, will be to build roads and bridges and to defend the local population against the attacks of 'bandits' and foreign mercenaries. Instead, they find themselves part of a drunken, demoralized army struggling to crush with tanks and helicopters and enemy that fights with rifles and religion."

The five were disgusted to find that it is a war against the Afghan people, against women and children as well as the mujahideen - an indictment supported by Prosser's statistics: More than nine million (out of a total 18 million population) driven from their homes, of whom 4.4 million are exiles, most of them in neighboring Pakistan.

The individual stories of the five - Igor Kovalchuk, Nikolai Golovin, Vladislav Naumov, Sergei Busov and Vadim Plotnikov - are told near the beginning of the book. They include eyewitness accounts of atrocities committed by Soviet troops. Although Prosser cautions that their stories cannot be guaranteed to be true, he says that the substance of them, in retellings over several years, has remained "compellingly consistent."

Next Prosser tells how the newspaper assignment was inspired and organized, including sketches of the men - notably Reynolds, publisher Michael Davies and reporter Ian Hamilton - who have made the Whig-Standard a perennial contender for Canadian journalism's highest honor, the Michener Award. Hamilton handled the Canadian end of the story, involving the Ottawa bureaucracy, Afghan refugees and immigrant aid societies eager to sponsor Soviet refugees.

Robert Nielsen is a former foreign correspondent for the Toronto Star.

-Thomson News Service.

### Surprise. Money matters popular topic for people

Money is on the minds of most people most of the time, a recent poll by USA Today shows.

Nearly 40 per cent of people polled said they thought about money frequently. A quarter said they thought about it nearly all the time.

The results are not surprising. Most of us don't have as much money as we would like.

The more you have, the more you and your partner can argue about how it should be spent.

People aren't content to be idle worriers, the survey shows. We tend to act on our concerns.

Each couple must decide these things themselves, but both partners must feel the decision is fair.

People who have been independent for years, or who were previously married, tend to be reluctant to pool their resources.

The best solution may be for the partners to keep some spending money for themselves and put the rest in a joint account. This way, they will preserve a sense of independence and privacy.

The poll's results show the need to talk openly about your financial hopes and fears.

Managing the family finances requires both partners to be pulling in the same direction. The whole venture can founder if one spends too freely.

#### PRIORITIES

If money is a nagging concern, sit down and decide what is most important to you and your family.

It may be paying off your credit card balances. This should be a priority because the interest on these loans is not tax deductible.

It may be saving for a home. If so, this will mean you can't go out as often as you used to, but most people find the sacrifice worthwhile.

Saving to buy a house can be frustrating because so much money is required for the down payment.

Most banks and trust companies want you to put up at least a quarter of the purchase price before they will lend you the balance.

If you can buy a property with a smaller down payment, it may be a good idea to do so. Your payments will be high, but with luck your property value will rise.

You will have to work hard to whittle the mortgage down to a more manageable size. This is so you don't risk losing your home if interest rates surge.

Mortgage interest is not tax deductible either, so a mortgage is not a particularly good thing if you have any choice.

And so long as you owe money on your mortgage, it doesn't make much sense to buy stocks or bonds.

It does make sense to sock away as much as you can in a registered retirement savings plan.

### Your Business

By DIANNE MALEY  
 Business Analyst



More than half of those surveyed had at least three months income tucked away in case of an emergency. Nearly two-thirds said they were not saving as much as they could.

One-third said they were waiting to have children until they could afford them. Forty-five per cent were limiting the number of children they would have because of financial considerations.

#### MONEY MANAGEMENT

Regardless of your income, there are things you can do to enhance it. Sensible money management makes the job of saving easier. As well, couples can manage their money in ways that reduce friction.

People who pool their paycheques have the most to argue about, it seems. Usually one person will pay the bills and keep the books. This may leave the other one feeling left out.

Worse, one partner may write a cheque without telling the other, causing another cheque to bounce.

Another source of discontent is how to divide bills when one partner makes more money than the other. Should payments be shared equally or proportionally?

### Berry's World



Jim Berry

"Unfortunately, these days, seeing trash doesn't necessarily mean you're near land."